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TO: North Dakota Administrators and Educators

FROM: Gail Schauer, Director
Office of Teacher & School Effectiveness

DATE: May 24, 2016

RE: Achieve Assessment Inventory Opportunity and Spring Updates

Achieve Assessment Inventory

Across the country, educators, parents and students are saying there is too much testing in our schools and testing takes valuable time away from teaching and learning. These concerns are legitimate and merit attention.

The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) recognizes the need for school districts to streamline their student assessments while ensuring they have the most relevant data to drive student learning. The NDDPI has been communicating with Jacob Mishook from Achieve regarding district assessment audits. He presented to a group of administrators at the ND Assessment Task Force in April 2016.

The NDDPI is pleased to announce an opportunity for schools to participate in a pilot program using the following tool: [Students Assessment Inventory for School Districts](#). A one-hour webinar will be held in June for all interested districts. The webinar will provide an overview of the initiative; discuss the benefits of a district assessment inventory for schools, staff, and students; describe how to create an audit team; and outline the four-stage process of implementing the [Students Assessment Inventory for School Districts](#). The four-stage process focus areas are: Reflect and Plan, Conduct the Inventory, Analyze the Inventory, and Make Recommendations.

After the June webinar, schools will be invited to complete and submit an application to NDDPI to become a pilot district in implementing the [Students Assessment Inventory for School Districts](#). Selected districts will attend a one-day, in-depth secondary training in August which will cover additional details in understanding how to implement this pilot program. The NDDPI has funds to assist in this endeavor (i.e., to cover stipends, travel expenses for training).

If your district is interested in working with NDDPI on this project, fill out and submit the [SurveyMonkey Form](#). NDDPI will contact you announcing the June webinar and the application process.

If you have any questions, please contact Gail Schauer, Director in the Office of Teacher and School Effectiveness, at gschauer@nd.gov or (701) 328-2755.

Save The Date!

The [Annual School Administrator's Workshop](#) is scheduled for August 3-5, 2016 at the Baymont Inn & Suites in Mandan. Registration will soon be available.

Spring Calendars

The STARS Spring Calendar is now open to input the 2015-2016 school calendar. The Spring Calendar report is due by June 15, 2016. The STARS [Spring Calendar Help Manual](#) provides guidance in inputting the information. If you have any questions, contact [Carol Harmsen](#) (701-328-2266).

Grade Reconfiguration

Districts generally set grade configurations for their schools and it remains the same year after year (i.e., elementary is grades 1-6 and high school is grades 7-12). However, there are times when a district may decide there are advantages to change the grade configuration. Please keep in mind that any grade reconfigurations must be made prior to August 1, 2016. If you have any questions, contact [Carol Harmsen](#) (701-328-2266).